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**Subject:** HHRA Research Program Update: September 2013

# HHRA Research Program Update:

## September 2013



The latest news from EPA's Human Health Risk Assessment Research Program

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### Recent Accomplishments

On September 19 and 25, EPA held a two day workshop to discuss scientific issues related to the reduction and absorption of ingested hexavalent chromium. For more information on the meeting, please visit the [workshop webpage](#).

On September 20, EPA released the final IRIS assessment of *1,4-dioxane*. For more information, please visit the [IRIS website](#).

On September 30, EPA released the final IRIS assessment of *methanol (non-cancer)*. For more information, please visit the [IRIS website](#).

On September 30, EPA announced an extension to the public comment period for the draft IRIS assessment of benzo[a]pyrene; the deadline for public comments is now November 21, 2013. Additional information is available [here](#).

## Upcoming Workshops

**October 1-3:** EPA will hold a workshop titled "*Workshop to Discuss Policy-Relevant Science to Inform EPA's Review of the Secondary NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>x</sub> NAAQS*". Additionally, EPA is announcing a call of scientific studies to assist in developing the Integrated Science Assessment (ISA) as part of the review of the secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) and oxides of sulfur (SO<sub>x</sub>). In the event of a government shutdown, the workshop will be rescheduled to a later date. Additional details are available [here](#).

**October 23-24:** EPA will hold the first in a series of IRIS bimonthly meetings to obtain input from stakeholders and the public on data that may be used to characterize hazard and exposure-response relationships and develop toxicity values on chemicals being assessed through IRIS. For the October 23-24 meeting, EPA is seeking input on preliminary materials (draft literature searches and associated search strategies, evidence tables, and exposure-response arrays) on three chemicals: *ethyl tert-butyl ether*, *tert-butanol*, and *hexahydro-1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triazine (RDX)*. Additionally, EPA is seeking public input and discussion on the draft IRIS assessment of *ethylene oxide* and charge to the peer review panel prior to external peer review. Additional details and the meeting agenda can be found [here](#).


**October 24-25:** EPA will hold a state-of-the-science workshop titled "Chemically-induced Mouse Lung Tumors: Application to Human Health Assessment." This workshop will cover a broad range of evidence from human, animal, and in vitro studies with a focus on specific chemicals (ethylbenzene, naphthalene, and styrene) causing tumors in mice and implicated in a proposed species-specific mode of action (MOA) based on metabolic and physiological susceptibility. The goal of the workshop is to inform the IRIS assessments for chemicals with similar mouse lung tumor evidence. Additional details and the meeting agenda are available [here](#).

## Publications

EPA scientists authored a manuscript, published by PLOS ONE, titled *Residential Mercury Contamination in Adobe Brick homes in Huancavelica, Peru*. The publication can be found [here](#).

EPA scientists authored a manuscript, published in *Environmental Health Perspectives*, titled *Scientific Considerations for Evaluating Cancer Bioassays Conducted by the Ramazzini Institute, in Environmental Health Perspectives*. The publication can be found [here](#). A blog post about this is available [here](#).

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